

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Masahiro SAMEI et al. Group Art Unit: 2852  
Appln. No. : 10/576,307 Examiner: S.S.Y. Lee  
(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/014649)  
I.A. Filed : October 5, 2004 Confirmation No. : 4488  
For : FIXING APPARATUS

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

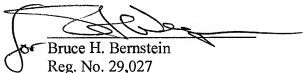
Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on July 21, 2008 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication of allowability, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the combination of features recited therein.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Masahiro SAMEI et al.



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July 25, 2008  
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